

IS YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED?

Friend of the Court may suspend your driver's license for failing to follow a court order. The two most common reasons for a driver's license to be suspended are failing to go to a court hearing, or for failing to follow a child support order after a court hearing. Be sure to make your child support payments regularly or keep in touch with us and follow the directions of your case manager if you cannot pay. Suspending a driver's license is a last resort.

If your driver's license is suspended, we would like to work with you to take care of the situation. Please call us a 632-6888 or email us at foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov. A case manager will make arrangements with you and explain what steps need to be taken to get your license back.

Once these steps are completed, the Friend of the Court will process an order that lets you get your license back. You will need to pay an order entry fee of \$45.00 at the Kent County Circuit Court. You must then return to the Friend of the Court to get a "certificate of compliance." Bring the certificate of compliance to any Secretary of State office. The Secretary of State will charge an \$85.00 license reinstatement fee. Your license will be reinstated within 48 hours after the fees are paid.

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Helpful reminders:

- ✓ Your child may be eligible for free preschool! Click [here](#) for more information.
- ✓ View child support payments and more online at www.micase.state.mi.
- ✓ Share this newsletter with those who may not have email, it may be beneficial to them at a later time..

CHILD CARE END DATES

Most child support orders state, "Child care for a child continues through August 31 following that child's 12th birthday. The parties must notify each other of changes in child-care expenses and must additionally notify the friend of the court if the change ends those expenses."

When Friend of the Court receives an order that includes child care, the end date for child care is automatically set when we enter the child's date of birth. Child care will automatically stop the August after the youngest child turns 12. If you believe you have a circumstance where the child care should continue, you may file a motion at Circuit Court to bring the issue before the judge either [on your own](#) or through your attorney.

If you stop using child care sooner, the payee may send us a notarized letter (or a letter with a copy of his or her driver's license) asking us to stop the charge. Or, either parent may file a motion either [on your own](#) or through your attorney. If your case is eligible for an income review, you may [request a review](#) and we will consider child care within that review.



KENT COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

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Our mission:

*To assist the Family
Division of the
Circuit Court in
facilitating the
resolution of
domestic relations
matters so that
children's best
interests are
protected.*

E-mail us at:

foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov

Or visit Kent County's
[website](#) for employment
opportunities with
Kent County and the
FOC.

ASK THE FOC: PARENTING TIME

Q: My child starts school this fall. Rather than having the parenting time exchange at the other party's home, I would like to be able to pick my child up at his school. What are the options to clarify this in my order? would like to get everything put in place to ensure that both parents always know what is going on. Thank you!

A: Your parenting time schedule is addressed in your court order. The schedule of parenting time in the order provides the basic rules on how parenting time is to occur. If you do not have specific parenting time or would like to request a change in the order you currently have, you have the following options:

Mediation - This is a service provided by the Kent County Friend of the Court's office. Mediation is strictly voluntary and free of charge. If both parents agree to a parenting time change and would like our assistance, either parent may send a [written request for mediation](#). If you reach agreement, a new order will be entered. If either parent decides not to appear, or agree to the change, no new order will be entered in mediation.

In Pro Per Motion - The [In Pro Per motion](#) is a motion that either parent may file on his or her own without the assistance of an attorney. If you and the other parent cannot agree, filing a motion is the way to bring the matter to the court for a decision. If you need assistance filling out this form you may contact the Legal Assistance Center at 616-632-6000.

Hire an attorney - At any time, either parent may decide to hire a private attorney to file a motion with the Circuit Court on their behalf.

Always make sure to plan ahead. It takes time to change your order, particularly if you and the other parent don't agree.

Have more questions for our office? You can share your questions and suggestions for future newsletter topics via email to: FOC.Mail@kentcountymi.gov with "Newsletter" in the subject line.

Please also provide your phone number so that we can follow up with you if needed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kent County Friend of the Court has over 40,000 active cases! Our staff of approximately 95 is organized into different departments that focus on specific parts of your court order. Some of the departments include parenting time, health care, support enforcement, income review, and alternative dispute resolution.

Many people know the name of their support enforcement case manager, but there are many other staff members assigned to the different parts of your court order. Often, people believe that their support enforcement case manager is the staff member they need to address their concerns to. However, depending on your question or concern, you may actually need to speak with someone in a different department.

Fortunately, the FOC has a highly trained Client Information Services Department (CISD) that can handle the majority of your questions right away, without having to forward you on to a specialized department or case manager. One of our goals is to be a first-contact resolution for your concerns and questions so you can get the answers or information you need without having to wait for a return call. If CISD staff are unable to answer your questions, they will be able to direct you to the correct staff member who will best be able to answer your concerns. You may contact us 24 hours a day at foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov or 8-4:30 Monday through Friday at 632-6888.